

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 DEAE-00 HEW-02 OES-03 SNM-02 AID-05 SCS-03

SCA-01 SP-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 FBIE-00 JUSE-00

RSC-01 ISO-00 /038 W

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R 131501Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2525

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: CARIBE-VISTA YOUTH SAFARI GROUP

REF : SD 3267, AUG 8, 1974

1. THE DECEMBER 25-31, 1974 WEEKLY ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER "THE SANTO DOMINGO NEWS" CARRIED AS ITS HEADLINE STORY AN ARTICLE ON THE CARIBE-VISTA YOUTH SAFARI GROUP. THE ARTICLE, HEADLINED: "U.S. DRUG CENTER ALARMS JARABACOANS" REPORTED "THE EXISTENCE OF A FOREIGN-OPERATED DRUG ADDICT AND DELINQUENT RECUPERATION CENTER" LOCATED NEAR JARABACOA. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO REPORT THAT THE CENTER IS MANAGED BY AMERICAN SPECIALISTS AND HOUSES SOME THIRTY FIVE TEENAGERS, SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF PROMINENT U.S. FAMILIES WHO "ARE NOW CONSIDERED DANGEROUS BY U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICERS THEMSELVES."

2. ON JANUARY 2 THE CONSUL GENERAL VISITED THE CENTER AND SPOKE AT LENGTH WITH ITS DIRECTOR, DAVID HENCKEL, A U.S. CITIZEN. IN ADDITION TO MR. HENCKEL, HIS WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN, THERE ARE ELEVEN U.S. CITIZEN STAFF MEMBERS AT THE CENTER. AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS A TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION OF SIXTEEN.

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3.MR. HENCKEL VERIFIED THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL AS GIVEN

IN REFERENCED TELEGRAM. HE STATED THAT AFTER THE DETROIT FREE PRESS ARTICLE THE MICHIGAN COURTS WITHDREW STUDENTS THEY HAD IN THE PROGRAM AND HAD NOT RESUMED SENDING STUDENTS ALTHOUGH HE HOPED THAT THEY WOULD AGAIN DO SO IN THE FUTURE. HE SAID THAT THE CENTER PRESENTLY HAS FOUR OR FIVE STUDENTS SENT BY COURTS IN ILLINOIS AND INDIANA. THE REST OF THE STUDENT BODY IS COMPOSED OF WHAT HE CALLED "PRIVATE REFERRALS FROM FAMILIES."

4. ACCORDING TO MR. HENCKEL, THE CENTER RECEIVES \$21.50 PER DAY PER STUDENT EITHER FROM THE COURT OR FROM THE FAMILY. THE CONSUL GENERAL ASKED IF THE STUDENTS WERE FREE TO LEAVE IF THEY WERE UNHAPPY AT BEING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. MR. HENCKEL REPLIED NEGATIVELY AND STATED THE STUDENTS WERE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE UNTIL IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THEY HAD "SOLVED THEIR PROBLEMS."

5. THE CONSUL GENERAL SPOKE WITH POLICE AUTHORITIES IN JARA-BACOA, A U.S. TRAINED PHYSICIAN WHO TREATS THE STUDENTS, AND OTHERS. THERE WERE NO COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE OPERATION OF THE CENTER OR THE STUDENTS. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE DOMINICAN SPANISH PRESS WILL PICK UP THE STORY PUBLISHED IN THE SANTO DOMINGO NEWS OR THE EMBASSY MAY RECEIVE AN INQUIRY FROM THE GODR.

6. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE DEPT. COULD OBTAIN SUCH INFORMATION AS MAY BE AVAILABLE ON THIS GROUP AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL. A COPY OF THE DETROIT FREE PRESS ARTICLE WOULD BE USEFUL AS BACKGROUND MATERIAL.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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